

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to require their stations to air an anti-Kerry campaign position being presented as a "documentary" days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. If Sinclair also presented Fahrenheit 9/11 at the same time, they will have done the correct thing.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the corporation and less of what we need for our democracy. It stifles legitimate exploration of differences of opinion and rarely includes reports on political dissent. Our country is becoming significantly less democratic with each new merger and softening of FCC regulations about ownership. It is very important that we see real people from our own communities and get more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.